

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - 23rd DECEMBER, 1940.



The expansion of war industries (still proceeding) has promoted a record level of employment and a rising trend of earnings, leading to stable conditions of trade and a marked increase in small savings. Special arbitration machinery has been provided to avert industrial stoppages. Economic controls are being increased to marshal resources for war purposes. Building proposals increased in November before building control came into operation.

CONTENTS.

PART.

I Season: More useful rain.

Export Prices and Export prices steady. Shipping difficulties.
External Conditions: American aid to Britain. Rise in prices in U.K.

Currency Sterling firm on New York free market. Anglo-American
Relationships: currency relationships and Roosevelt's "lend or lease" plan.

Wool: Wool received and appraisements in Sydney.

Wheat: U.S.A. winter wheat area. Oversea futures ease.
 Wheat pool advances. Local prices steady.

Butter: Production increasing in N.S.W.

Metals: Tin and silver steady in London. Export parity prices
 of Australian metals - October, 1940.

II Wholesale Trade: Employment - November, 1940. Sales - October and Jan.-Oct., 1940.

Retail Trade: Employment - November, 1940.
 City Shops - Activity in October and Aug.-Oct., 1940.

Savings Banks: Deposits and Open Accounts at Nov. 30, 1940. War
 Savings Certificates.

III Employment: Persons employed in N.S.W. - mid November, 1940.

Manufacturing Employment, N.S.W. - mid-November, 1940.
Industries: 42 Large Factories - Sales, etc., Oct. & Jan.-Oct., 1940.

Building Permits: Value and No. dwellings - Nov. and Jan.-Nov., 1940.
Metropolis:

Motor Vehicles: New Motor Sales - November, 1940.
 Total Registrations at November 30, 1940.

• Coal: Employment in Collieries - November, 1940.
 Coal hauled by Rail - Nov. and Jan.-Nov., 1940.

PART I. PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASON. Western and south-western sections of the State are still very dry. Further rain has fallen elsewhere during the past week and the drought appears effectively to have been broken in all the more important agricultural and pastoral districts. Sugar cane production on the North Coast (N.S.W.) may be a record, though the Queensland cut of cane will be decreased compared with last season.

EXPORT PRICES AND
EXTERNAL TRADE CONDITIONS.

Export prices generally are maintained at a steady and satisfactory level as most important items of export (other than wheat) are covered by agreed prices under contracts for purchase by the British Government. The real problem is shipping space. Enemy raiders in the Pacific and Indian Oceans are further embarrassments to Australian oversea trade.

The major developments abroad (apart from British and Greek military successes) with important economic potentialities include Mr. Roosevelt's lead toward open-handed financial aid to Britain by the United States and the establishment of the Office of Production Management to secure "production to the maximum of American resources in capital and labour, in management and industry, and in every field which can contribute to victory". Britain has signed contracts for \$100 m. worth of cargo ships and is expected to place war orders totalling \$3,000 m. in anticipation of Congress approving the President's plan to "lend or lease" armaments, etc. to Britain. Another fifteen materials have been brought under the United States licensing system (designed to check Japan's war activities).

British wholesale prices are tending to rise and during November the Ministry of Labour's cost of living index rose 2 points (partly due to the purchase tax) making a rise of 40 points (about 25%) since the war began. To keep the price of bread (8d. a 4lb. loaf) steady the flour subsidy is to be increased to offset increased costs (higher wages etc.) of production.

The London Stock Exchange was dull but steady last week and business improved at the week end. In New York industrial shares tended easier.

INTERNATIONAL
CURRENCY RELATIONS.

The rate of exchange, dollars for sterling on the free market in New York continues approximately the same as the British official rate (\$4.03 to £stg.).

The British Treasury is now permitting dealings (formerly barred) between United Kingdom residents in 120 dollar and other oversea issues (including certain Australian bonds.)

The relationship between British and American currency is of far-reaching moment both in relation to wartime payments and post-war economic conditions. In this respect Mr. Roosevelt's proposal to "lend or lease" war materials to Britain, with the implication of acceptance of ultimate repayment in kind has particular merits. In the view of the Financial Times "it avoids the pitfalls inseparable from international loans or credits and effectually by-passes the difficult problem of foreign exchange....."

Sterling exchange has moved on the open market in New York as follows:-

	<u>Aug., 1939</u>	<u>1940</u> <u>May</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec. 19</u>
£ to \$	4.61	3.28	3.81	4.04	4.04	4.04

WOOL. The appraisement of wool in Sydney was suspended for the Christmas recess on December, 18 and will be resumed on Jan. 13, 1940. To date this season 1,048,520 bales of wool have been received in Sydney, which is about 6 per cent. below the quantity received in the corresponding period of last season (1,113,875 bales). The quantity appraised before Christmas (851,245 bales) was the greatest ever disposed of in the Sydney market in that period, and at the contract price (13.4375d. a lb.) was of a value of approximately £14.5 m.

/WHEAT.....

WHEAT. Quotations of wheat futures in Chicago and Winnipeg declined slightly last week. Canadian wheat was a shade cheaper in London also, where new crop Australian bulk wheat is quoted at 28s. a quarter compared with the quotation of a fortnight ago of 25s. 6d. a quarter for old crop wheat, f.o.b., London.

The winter wheat acreage in the United States is estimated officially at 46,271,000 acres, from which 633 m. bus. might be produced, judged on present condition, but the crop has yet to pass through the critical stages in May-July next. Last season's production of winter wheat was 589 m. bus.

The Australian Wheat Board began paying the first advance (3s. bagged, 2s. 10½d. bulk wheat a bus. less freight) on 1940-41 wheat (No. 4 Pool) on Dec. 18, 1940. Payment of the third advance (3d. a bus.) on Nos. 2 and 3 Pools (1939-40 wheat) has been completed.

In the local market the demand for wheat for export flour has continued. The Wheat Board's prices were unchanged with wheat for flour for local consumption and small export orders (except Eastern, 2d. higher) at 3s. 11¼d. for bulk wheat, and 4s. 0¾d. for bagged wheat a bushel f.o.r. Sydney. The local price of flour remained at £12.13s. a ton.

PRICES OF WHEAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

BULK WHEAT	Seasons ended November.			November		Dec. 21, 1940.
	Av. 1931-35	1937	1939	1939	1940.	
	Shillings and pence per bushel.					
Ex trucks, Sydney	2 9½	5 3	2 5	2 9½	3 11¼ (b)	3 11¼(b)
Equivalent ex farm at Country siding (a)	2 2½	4 8	1 9½	2 2	(c)	(c)

(a) Exclusive of bounty. (b) Prices for sale for local consumption.
(c) Advances made give farmers about 2s. 8d. (net) a bushel for 1939-40 wheat.

BUTTER. Good following rains have been received in all principal dairying districts and pastures are improving rapidly. The production of butter and cheese is increasing and there are prospects for a large exportable surplus of butter during the summer months.

METALS. In London the open market price of tin was very steady last week at about £stg. 257 a ton. This is a little below the average price in the months May to August, 1940, but nearly equal to the average in recent months and about £stg. 27 a ton above the immediate pre-war price.

Silver was slightly firmer last week and on Dec. 20 was quoted at 21s. 11¼d. (stg) an oz. compared with averages of 1s. 5d. (stg.) in July, 1939 and 1s. 11¼d. in Nov., 1940.

The British Ministry of Supply fixed maximum prices for electrolytic copper (£stg. 62 a ton) lead (£stg. 25 a ton) and spelter (£stg. 25.15s. a ton), duty paid, delivered to buyer, were unchanged.

Monthly average export parities of prices obtained for metals exported from Australia (compared below) show that in each case the return in October, 1940 was considerably above the pre-war level:-

AVERAGE PRICES OF METALS (EXPORT PARITIES, f.o.b.) AUSTRALIA.

	Silver (Standard)	Lead	Spelter	Tin (Standard)	Gold (Fine)
	oz.	ton	ton	ton	oz.
	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Average, 1937	2 1.0	27 9 3	29 1 6	292 16 5	8 15 1
1938	2 0.1	17 12 11	19 12 10	228 11 10	8 17 1
1939	2 1.4	17 12 1	19 15 3	268 3 6	9 14 4
" July, 1940	2 2.6	18 10 2	24 5 8	301 3 5	10 11 0
" Aug., "	2 3.9	18 16 5	21 17 9	298 10 1	10 12 6
" Sept. "	2 4.3	18 8 3	24 12 11	287 9 7	10 13 3
" Oct., "	2 4.3	18 5 5	22 10 6	294 17 7	10 14 0

WHOLESALE TRADE. In October, 1940 sales at wholesale in New South Wales, (as recorded under the Sales Tax Acts) totalled £18.50 m. compared with £19.22 m. in October, 1939 and £15.66 m. in October, 1938. The short-lived period of rush buying after the outbreak of the war affected trading in October, 1939. Up to the present consumers have been purchasing normally and the increase (of 1.9 per cent.) in the value of sales in Jan.-Oct., 1940 compared with the corresponding period of last year may be due mainly to direct factory sales of war materials to the Government. An increase in prices is also a factor in the greater value of goods sold by wholesalers. There may be material changes in the pattern of trade due to official controls and taxation (See B.S. 1940/11c., p.5) but the rising national income and particularly increased earnings of work-people (see Savings Banks, page 4) suggests maintenance of generally satisfactory business conditions.

Employment in wholesale trade has changed very little over the past three years. Wholesale firms with ten or more employees were employing 26,028 persons in the middle week of November, 1940, compared with 26,200 in Nov., 1939. Between Nov., 1937 and 1940 the increase in employment in these firms was equal to only 4 per cent.

WHOLESALE TRADE - NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Sales by Registered Traders.			Employment in wholesale Firms with Ten or more Employees.	
	October.	January-October.	Increase over Jan.-Oct. of Preceding Year.	October.	November.
	£million.	£million	Per cent.	Persons.	
1932	11.13	101.45	1.2	(June, 1933 - 17,638)	
1937	16.47	157.31	18.0	24,819	25,015
1938	15.66	159.04	1.1	25,664	25,814
1939	19.22	164.44	3.4	25,926	26,200
1940	18.50	167.63	1.9	25,830	26,028

RETAIL TRADE. Trading conditions appear to have been very stable in recent months, contrasting with the buying wave in Sept.-Oct, 1939. Official price control checked early tendencies toward a rush for goods, and no undue pressure upon supplies has appeared. Some classes of business are bound to suffer as a result of the discriminatory rates of sales tax and the higher level of taxation, but direct taxation will bear moderately upon lower incomes and it is possible that retail trade will continue at a high level.

Employment in retail trading firms with ten or more employees has moved seasonally and increased a little in comparison with one and two years ago. In these firms the number of persons employed was:-

	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
September	47,598	49,854	50,989	51,176	51,382
October	47,881	50,623	51,193	51,615	51,600
November	48,920	51,415	52,340	52,658	53,199

Geographical distribution of these employees in November shows an increase in employment in shops in Sydney and in the Newcastle district, and a moderate decrease in country towns.

EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL TRADE, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Middle week of November	Sydney.		Newcastle District.	Country Towns.	Total - N.S.W.	
	City.	Suburbs.			Number.	Increase - Year ended Nov.
	Persons employed by firms with ten or more employees.					
1937	36,109	4,065	2,473	8,768	51,415	2,495
1938	36,836	4,110	2,584	8,809	52,340	925
1939	37,399	4,083	2,644	8,532	52,658	318
1940	38,040	4,093	2,649	8,417	53,199	541

/CITY SHOPS.

PART II (Continued)

CITY SHOPS. In a group of large shops in the City of Sydney sales in October, 1940 (with one more working day) were 5.6 per cent. greater in value than in October, 1939. There were increases in sales of women's wear (17.3%) men's and boy's wear (10.7%) hardware (8.5%) books etc. (11.7%) and food and perishables (7.4%). Due to very heavy sales of piece goods and boots and shoes in Oct., 1939 there were decreases in comparison with that month of 13.4 and of 0.7 per cent. for these classes. Stocks in these shops were 14.8 per cent. above the value in October, 1939.

Total sales increased by 5.6, 5.7 and 5.1 per cent. in the six, ten, and twelve months ended October, 1940 in comparison with the corresponding periods of 1938-39. In the three months ended October sales were 5.5 per cent., the average number of employees, 3.7 per cent., and the amount of salaries and wages paid, 4.5 per cent. greater than in Aug.-Oct., 1939.

SAVINGS BANKS. During November, 1940, deposits in savings banks in New South Wales increased by £542,000 to £85,110,000. Ordinarily there is little movement in savings deposits in November. In the same month about £260,000 was paid for war savings certificates. The high rate of small savings has been a feature in recent months and in the five months ended November, 1940 savings deposits increased by £2,999,000 and about £2,562,000 was paid for war savings certificates, making a total of about £5,561,000 or an average of well over £1 million a month. The extent to which savings may have been utilized for subscriptions to the £28 m. loan, opened on Nov. 28, 1940 is not known. Particulars by months are:-

<u>1940.</u>	<u>July.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>July-Nov.</u>
	Increase in £000.					
Savings Deposits	24	939	753	741	542	2,999
War Savings Certificates ϕ	1,196	455	309	342	(260?)	(2,562?)
Total	1,220	1,394	1,062	1,083	802	5,561

ϕ Amount received (80% of face value) during month.

Behind this trend in savings lies the increase in employment (32,000 in the year ended October) and in average earnings of work people. Particulars of employment and of salaries and wages paid in all firms having ten or more employees in Dec., 1933 show that the average remuneration per employee rose from £3.74 in March, 1934 to £4.35 in November, 1939 and was £4.47 per week in November, 1940. This increase in capacity to save has been reinforced by patriotic motives. It is reflected in an increase of 27,800 in the number of open savings accounts in the last five months.

SAVINGS BANKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Depositors' Balances.		Increase in Deposits.		Open Savings Accounts.	
	At 31st October.	At 30th November.	In November.	In year ended Nov.	At 31st October.	At 30th November.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	000	000
1936	79,955	79,966	11	1,076	1,192	1,197
1937	82,960	83,227	267	3,261	1,254	1,262
1938	86,763	86,341	-422	3,114	1,318	1,322
1939	86,751	86,684	-67	343	1,320	1,325
1940	84,568	85,110	542	-1,574	1,334	1,341

Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

PART III INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT. Employment in New South Wales has continued to increase, notwithstanding stoppages caused by industrial disputes. In the middle week of November, 1940 the number of persons employed (885,808) was a record and 28,947 greater than in Nov., 1939. The increase has been predominantly in private employment, especially in factories (in which 15,800 employees were added between Nov., 1939 and 1940). Since June last total employment has risen by 29,362 persons, compared with increases of 1,862 and 25,306 in the corresponding periods of 1938 and 1939.

INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN N.S.W.

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Five Months ended November.			
	In all Employment.					Private Emp'mt.	Public Emp'mt.	Total Emp'mt.	In All Factories
1938	- 889	- 4,050	+ 5,899	- 3,058	+ 3,960	+ 3,653	- 1,791	+ 1,862	+ 1,300
1939	+ 1,776	- 1,525	+ 6,629	+ 11,614	+ 6,812	+ 31,892	- 6,586	+ 25,306	+ 7,700
1940	+ 8,666	+ 6,914	+ 3,700	+ 6,435	+ 3,647	+ 28,023	+ 1,339	+ 29,362	+ 18,000

Unemployment has been reduced; the number of adult males registered at State Labour Exchanges as unemployed decreased from 40,813 in May, 1940 to 29,469 in Nov., 1940. The labour force has been augmented by children reaching working age, formerly self-employed persons becoming wage-earners, the return of retired work-people, and by persons not hitherto employed entering employment to further the war effort.

From Oct. to Nov., 1940 there were seasonal gains in employment in trading occupations and the normal increase in factory employment was supplemented by further development of war industries. Employment in shipping and road transport decreased after occurrence of heavy employment in October.

Particulars illustrating trends in employment in broad industrial groups over the past five years are appended. The feature is the growth of employment in factories which accelerated in 1940. In comparison with a year ago changes in employment in other industries were mostly slight, except for an increase (in firms with ten or more employees) of 4.7 per cent. in offices and commerce and a decrease of 7.6 per cent. in shipping and road transport in which sphere employment is varying irregularly due to exigencies of wartime shipping movements. An increase of 2,260 employees in hospitals over the past five years accounts for most of the increase shown below under "personal services".

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Excluding Relief Workers and men in the Armed Forces not on Civil Paysheets.)

	Persons employed in middle week of -						Increase; Nov., 1940 over -	
	Nov., 1936.	Nov., 1937.	Nov., 1938.	Nov., 1939.	Oct., 1940.	Nov., 1940.	Nov., 1939.	Nov., 1936.
	000	000	000	000	000	000	%	%
All Employment	773.3	835.6	841.4	856.9	882.2	885.8	3.4	15.8
Private "	638.1	686.2	692.5	706.5	725.0	728.3	3.1	14.1
All Factories	209.1	226.1	230.8	236.7	249.6	252.5	6.7	20.8
<u>In Firms with Ten or more Employees -</u>								
Mines	18.3	19.5	21.7	21.0	21.3	21.2	1.0	16.5
Retail Trade	48.9	51.4	52.3	52.7	51.6	53.2	0.9	8.8
Wholesale Trade	23.9	25.0	25.8	26.2	25.8	26.0	- 0.8	8.8
Offices & Commerce	26.6	26.9	27.6	29.1	30.1	30.5	4.7	14.7
Ship'g & Rd. Transp't.	18.6	21.2	20.2	21.2	21.3	19.6	- 7.6	5.4
Personal Services ϕ	26.4	28.0	28.7	29.4	30.8	30.3	3.1	14.8
Other Industries	20.3	21.6	21.4	20.7	19.8	19.2	- 7.3	5.4

ϕ Includes hospitals, professions, amusements, hotels, etc. (-) denotes decrease.

PART III (Continued)

Expansion of the industrial war effort, still proceeding, will make further demands upon labour, and this may be satisfied in increasing degree by transfer of workers from the less essential industries. This is likely to be hastened by measures such as official control of investment, imports and building and the effects of direct and indirect taxation upon general consumption.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. Happily prepared by the post-depression expansion of capacity of the heavy iron and steel and associated industries, the secondary industries of the State have rapidly been adapted to war production. In November, 1940 there were 252,500 persons employed in factories in New South Wales and the index number of factory employment was 40 per cent. above the average for the pre-depression peak year (1928-29). Trends of employment in factories over the war period and in the preceding corresponding period were:-

	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>
Persons employed in factories - thousands.							
1938 and 1939	229.0	230.8	230.8	224.6	227.4	232.6	236.7
1939 " 1940	224.7	236.7	241.3	239.9	246.2	249.6	252.5

In the development of war industries problems of labour supply have arisen and in several important trades, have been met in part by dilution of labour with consent of the unions. There has been some interruption of war work by industrial stoppages. On Dec. 17 regulations under the National Security Act giving effect to recommendations of the Advisory War Council were made which give wide powers to the Minister of Labour and National Service and the Commonwealth Arbitration Court to prevent disputes arising, and to ensure speedy hearing and decision in such disputes as may arise. Innovations are: power to refer to the court questions of wages or conditions likely to cause a stoppage; the Court may deal with disputes not extending beyond the limits of any State (formerly not within its jurisdiction); and the appointment of conciliation Commissioners to investigate disputes, convene conferences of the parties, and, if the Court directs, to make agreements having the force of awards.

The following comparative statement, covering employment in factories with ten or more employees gives an indication of the place of war production in the industrial expansion of the past year or so. Of particular note are the increases of about 18½ per cent. in industrial metals and 26 per cent. in chemicals in the last two years. Changes (per cent.) over the year ended Nov., 1940 are shown at foot of the table.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES WITH TEN OR MORE EMPLOYEES, N.S.W.

Middle week of -	Cement, Bricks, Glass &c.	Chemicals &c.	Industrial metals.	Textiles & clothing.	Food and Drink	Wood-working &c.	Paper and Printing.	Rubber.
Number of persons employed - thousands.								
November, 1935	9.73	5.65	46.78	33.79	23.79	8.73	12.38	2.82
1938	11.98	6.95	62.82	38.40	28.34	10.68	14.96	3.80
1939	11.90	8.10	65.10	39.31	29.71	10.19	15.13	3.80
March, 1940	11.99	8.55	66.30	39.61	31.05	9.95	15.15	4.13
October, "	12.40	8.56	73.26	41.43	30.04	9.99	14.44 ø	3.59
November, "	12.65	8.78	74.44	41.72	30.46	9.95	14.36	3.64
Increase - Nov., 1939 to 1940.	6.3%	8.4%	14.3%	6.1%	2.5%	-2.4%	-5.1%	-4.2%

ø Decrease mainly due to discontinuance of a city daily newspaper.

In 42 large factories, employment, the weekly payroll and the value of sales in October, 1940 exceeded those of any earlier month and were 6.8, 12.3 and 16.0 per cent. respectively, greater than in October, 1939. Sales in the ten months ended October totalled £35.04 m. this year, compared with £31.70 m. in 1939.

/MANUFACTURING.....

PART III (Continued)

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES - NEW SOUTH WALES.

All Factories.			Forty-two Large Factories.					
Employment November			Month of October.			January to October. (monthly Average)		
Number	Index. No.		Sales	Employ- ees.	Wages Paid Weekly.	Sales.	Employ- ees.	Wages Paid Weekly.
1928-29 =			£000	000	£000	£000	000	£000
180,756	100							
1932 141,000	78		2,042	15.6	55.6	2,014	14.5	52.9
1937 226,100	125		3,147	23.5	94.1	3,008	22.4	86.3
1938 230,800	128		3,005	23.9	97.1	3,123	23.5	95.3
1939 236,700	131		3,421	23.6	99.2	3,170	23.0	95.6
1940 252,500	140		3,969	25.2	111.4	3,504	24.0	103.6

BUILDING PERMITS - METROPOLIS.

NOTE: Building permits do not include Government buildings.

Building permits in Nov., 1940 (£1.28 m.) were greatest in value of the war period, probably due to reactions to official control of building from Dec. 5, 1940. Permits in recent months disclose a low level of city proposals, relatively high totals for houses, a partial recovery of flat building and a fair amount of factory building for which there was an exceptional total in Nov. Shops and "other" buildings have decreased.

Dwellings proposed in Jan.-Nov., 1940 decreased numerically by 12.6% compared with a year earlier, mainly because of the decrease in flats.

Building permits granted in Sydney and suburbs decreased in value in each month July to October but in November the total (£1,284,000) was greatest of any month of the war period and more than twice as great as in Nov., 1939. It would appear that permits were sought for a number of substantial buildings so that approval of the Commonwealth Treasurer (which became necessary for buildings of a value of over £5,000 as from Dec. 5, 1940) would not be required. Buildings for which permits were granted prior to that date may be commenced up to April 5, 1941 without other authority. The value in Nov., 1940 was inflated on that account, and the increase may prove only incidental. Totals for recent months compare with those of one and two years ago as follows:-

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Value of permits granted - £000.								
1938	1256	1292	1140	1741	1202	1110	933	1325
1939	1028	1270	1522	1209	800	1205	797	797
1940	1041	979	960	1048	956	840	833	1284

City permits in Nov. (£186,000) were considerably above the average (£94,000) in preceding months of 1940 and £100,000 more than in Nov., 1939 but this increase also was contrary to the downward trend previously in evidence. Only in June and July, 1939 was the suburban total exceeded in post-depression years. In the eleven months of this year totals were lower both in the city (37%) and the suburbs (7%) than in Jan.-Nov., 1939. Comparative details are:-

/Table.....

PART III (Continued)

	Month of November.					Eleven months ended November.				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
City £000	223	260	399	86	186	1931	2274	3137	1802	1131
Suburbs £000	525	869	926	711	1098	7367	7833	9969	9816	9133
Total £000	748	1129	1325	797	1284	9,298	10,107	13,106	11,618	10,264

The decrease in private building has been materially offset by a large volume of building on Government (State and Commonwealth) account, as the following particulars show:-

		November.		July-November	
		1939.	1940.	1939.	1940.
Private Building	£000	797	1284	5,532	4,961
Public	" £000	39	111	636 x	463
Total	£000	836	1,395	6,168	5,424

x Includes G.P.O. extension, £411,000.

Building permits in November, 1940 included large amounts for hotels, etc., brick houses, flats, shops, factories and "other buildings". The amount for factories (£218,000) was perhaps a record, certainly the greatest for at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, and for shops (£76,000) was highest of the war period. A bulk store to cost £90,000 was included in the "other buildings" for which the total value was greater than in any month since October, 1939.

Maintenance of a high level of house-building (particularly of brick houses) and a substantial recovery in flat building in recent months, together with continued provision of new factory premises have been the features of private building activity. Much capital has also been invested in hotel premises but in general shops and city office buildings (included in "other") have decreased significantly. Details of value according to class of building are appended. Percentage changes comparing Jan.-Nov. of this year and last year are shown at foot of the table:-

VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS GRANTED - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

Period.	Houses.		Flats. (a)	Hotels, Guest Houses.	Shops. (b)	Factor- ies. (c)	Other Build- ings.	Total.
	Brick &c.	Wood, Fibro.						
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
November, 1938	402	89	146	312	64	111	201	1,325
" 1939	344	70	176	30	38	76	63	797
October, 1940	398	54	194	28	21	79	59	833
November, "	446	58	228	61	76	218	197	1,284
Jan.-Nov. 1938	4,575	851	3,146	825	555	917	2,237	13,106
" 1939	4,223	880	2,686	449	492	1,265	1,623	11,618
" 1940	4,373	840	2,014	595	353	1,018	1,071	10,264
Movement: 11 mths 1939 to 1940	+ 3.6%	- 4.5%	- 25.0%	+ 32.5%	- 28.3%	- 19.5%	- 34.0%	- 11.7%

Including (a) conversions to flats (b) shops with dwellings and (c) public garages.

Factors affecting building prospects (indicated in B.S. 1940/12B at page 10) suggest that private building activity may decrease.

/DWELLINGS.....

PART III (Continued)

DWELLINGS. In November 1940 there were 810 additional dwellings proposed in the metropolis, compared with a monthly average of 740 in the first ten months of this year and 988 in the calendar year 1938. The number of brick houses (379) was relatively high, but proposals for wooden and fibro houses numbered 94 comparing with monthly averages of 129 in Jan.-Oct., 1940, 138 in 1939 and 140 in 1938. There were more flat dwellings than in any month since June, 1940 but the number (322) was greater than in Nov. 1938 and 1939; it was apparently affected by propositions advanced to obtain permits to build before the building control regulations came into operation.

Particulars for the eleven months ended November (appended) show that there were 2,859 and 1,184 fewer dwellings included in permits this year than in 1938 and 1939, respectively. The decrease is mostly in flat buildings, though it is also appreciable in respect of wooden and/or fibro houses:-

DWELLINGS INCLUDED IN PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

	Eleven months ended November.					Movement: 1939 to '40.
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	
Houses - Brick, etc.	3,327	3,426	4,352	3,958	3,980	+ 0.6%
- Wood, Fibro, etc.	830	1,078	1,590	1,591	1,385	- 12.9%
Total Houses	4,157	4,504	5,942	5,549	5,365	- 3.3%
Flats - In new Buildings	3,022	3,074	4,803	3,623	2,797	- 22.8%
- In Converted Bldgs.	406	469	401	321	212	- 34.0%
With Shops, Hotels, etc.	186	125	230	196	111	- 43.4%
Total Flats etc.	3,614	3,668	5,434	4,140	3,120	- 24.6%
Grand Total	7,771	8,172	11,376	9,689	8,485	- 12.9%
Less Demolitions & Conversions	305	408	305	293	273	- 6.8%
Net Additional Dwellings	7,466	7,764	11,071	9,396	8,212	- 12.6%

Individual houses comprised 63.2 per cent. of the dwellings proposed in Jan.-Nov. of this year compared with 57.3 per cent. and 52.2 per cent. in the corresponding periods of 1939 and 1938, respectively. The following statement illustrates the course of activity in the provision of new housing in the metropolis since 1929:-

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS INCLUDED IN BUILDING PERMITS - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

	Calendar Year.					Jan.-Nov.	
	1929.	1930-34 x	1937.	1938.	1939.	1939.	1940.
Individual Houses	7,095	1,205	4,852	6,342	5,847	5,549	5,365
In flats, with shops, etc.	3,097	656	3,900	5,821	4,290	4,140	3,120
Total Dwellings (net ø)	9,854	1,839	8,490	11,853	9,822	9,396	8,212

x Yearly average. ø After deducting demolitions and conversions.

MOTOR VEHICLES. In November 1940 the weekly average number of new motor vehicles registered in N.S.W. was 250 - the greatest since May last, but less than half the weekly average (537) in November 1939. New motor sales usually receive a fillip in November, and they have been recovering a little in recent months:-

/AVERAGE

PART III (Continued)

AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBER OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED, N.S.W. ϕ

	Cars, Cabs and Omnibuses.						Lorries and Vans.					
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1937	497	451	414	415	421	483	218	202	210	200	221	246
1938	383	357	340	368	343	428	155	156	147	181	177	202
1939	376	305	322	270	314	368	141	133	146	126	145	169
1940	115	63	88	118	128	173	70	60	53	63	64	77

ϕ Exclusive of military and Air Force vehicles.

Petrol rationing appears to be working smoothly and not to have borne with undue severity upon essential road transportation. In each of the last two and three months there has been an increase in the number of cars and of lorries and vans (respectively) on the register. From August, 1939 to Sept., 1940 cars decreased by 11,815 and have since increased by 1,010. Lorries and vans decreased (Aug. 1939 to Aug., 1940) by 3,062 of which 794 has been regained in the last three months. Some of the decrease of the last twelve months may be attributed to non-renewal of licenses for vehicles found un-roadworthy under the pre-registration inspection introduced in October, 1939.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	1933.	1938	1939		1940.				
	July.	Nov.	Aug.	Nov.	Mar.	June.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
				Thousands.					
Cars	148.2	209.7	216.6	216.1	214.6	209.5	204.8	205.0	205.8
Lorries & Vans	42.2	75.8	77.6	77.6	76.4	75.6	74.7	75.1	75.4
All Vehicles	216.5	319.5	329.2	328.2	324.7	318.2	312.1	312.7	314.1

COAL. Conditions in the coal mining industry have been somewhat disturbed. An industrial stoppage affecting Northern collieries began on Dec. 16. Although a settlement was reached at a compulsory conference on Dec. 18 it is possible that full working will not be resumed until the New Year.

With advice of the War Council the Commonwealth Government has set up special arbitration machinery for the coal mining industry. This includes a central reference board presided over by an Arbitration Court Judge (the decisions of which will have the force of awards of the Court) and local reference boards in each of the six principal coal districts to deal with local disputes subject to a measure of control by the central board. The boards will not function when employers lock out employees or mine workers are on strike, but can be invoked to deal with matters deemed likely to cause disputes.

Though collieries have produced more coal recently than at any time previously, stocks of coal are still inadequate in some industrial centres of Australia. The quantity of coal hauled by rail in N.S.W. in November, was about 800,000 tons making 6,645,000 tons for the eleven months ended Nov., 1940 compared with 7,820,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1939 - the decrease being due to idleness of the collieries from March 11 to May 17, 1940.

Employment in collieries in the middle week of Nov., 1940 compares with the corresponding date of earlier years as follows:-

<u>November.</u>	<u>1928.</u>	<u>1937.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
Men employed in Collieries	21,700 ϕ	14,100	16,100	16,300	17,400

ϕ Yearly average.